

warrior, a hard worker, an Air Force lieutenant colonel, and—perhaps her most important job—a mother of five. Her name is Amanda Naylor, and she has been part of my office for her year-long Defense fellowship.

Amanda took the hustle and bustle of Capitol Hill in stride. She made it look easy. She hit the ground running, and whether it was committee hearings, briefings with Defense Department officials, or working with other offices, Amanda was always there to provide our team expertise and drive issues forward.

She used her own experience in the military and the Air Force to craft legislation like the Rent the Camo Act that provided affordable maternity uniforms for our servicewomen. It is truly a testament to her insight and her hard work that she got this bill into the NDAA, into the defense bill. She is a perfect example of why we need more veterans in Congress and more veterans in government at every level. They bring that on-the-ground expertise into our legislation.

Amanda is talented, smart, and, above all, kind. Congress could certainly use more like her. I am sad she will be leaving us, but she has made our office and she will make the country a better and safer place.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

DRIFTNET MODERNIZATION AND BYCATCH REDUCTION ACT

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 906) to improve the management of driftnet fishing.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 906

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION.

Section 3(25) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802(25)) is amended by inserting “, or with a mesh size of 14 inches or greater,” after “more”.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND POLICY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 206(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1826(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) within the exclusive economic zone, large-scale driftnet fishing that deploys nets

with large mesh sizes causes significant entanglement and mortality of living marine resources, including myriad protected species, despite limitations on the lengths of such nets.”.

(b) POLICY.—Section 206(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1826(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following—

“(4) prioritize the phase out of large-scale driftnet fishing in the exclusive economic zone and promote the development and adoption of alternative fishing methods and gear types that minimize the incidental catch of living marine resources.”.

SEC. 4. TRANSITION PROGRAM.

Section 206 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1826) is amended by adding at the end the following—

“(i) FISHING GEAR TRANSITION PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—During the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act, the Secretary shall conduct a transition program to facilitate the phase-out of large-scale driftnet fishing and adoption of alternative fishing practices that minimize the incidental catch of living marine resources, and shall award grants to eligible permit holders who participate in the program.

“(2) PERMISSIBLE USES.—Any permit holder receiving a grant under paragraph (1) may use such funds only for the purpose of covering—

“(A) any fee originally associated with a permit authorizing participation in a large-scale driftnet fishery, if such permit is surrendered for permanent revocation, and such permit holder relinquishes any claim associated with the permit;

“(B) a forfeiture of fishing gear associated with a permit described in subparagraph (A); or

“(C) the purchase of alternative gear with minimal incidental catch of living marine resources, if the fishery participant is authorized to continue fishing using such alternative gears.

“(3) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall certify that, with respect to each participant in the program under this subsection, any permit authorizing participation in a large-scale driftnet fishery has been permanently revoked and that no new permits will be issued to authorize such fishing.”.

SEC. 5. EXCEPTION.

Section 307(1)(M) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1857(1)(M)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, unless such large-scale driftnet fishing—

“(i) deploys, within the exclusive economic zone, a net with a total length of less than two and one-half kilometers and a mesh size of 14 inches or greater; and

“(ii) is conducted within 5 years of the date of enactment of the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act”.

SEC. 6. FEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The North Pacific Fishery Management Council may recommend, and the Secretary of Commerce may approve, regulations necessary for the collection of fees from charter vessel operators who guide recreational anglers who harvest Pacific halibut in International Pacific Halibut Commission regulatory areas 2C and 3A as those terms are defined in part 300 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

(b) USE OF FEES.—Any fees collected under this section shall be available, without ap-

propriation or fiscal year limitation, for the purposes of—

(1) financing administrative costs of the Recreational Quota Entity program;

(2) the purchase of halibut quota shares in International Pacific Halibut Commission regulatory areas 2C and 3A by the recreational quota entity authorized in part 679 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations);

(3) halibut conservation and research; and

(4) promotion of the halibut resource by the recreational quota entity authorized in part 679 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN)?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to speak in favor of the Driftnet Modernization and Bycatch Reduction Act. This was sent to us by the Senate on voice vote and sponsored by California Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN.

I applaud our colleagues in the Senate for sending us meaningful bipartisan bills—for a change—that were overwhelmingly improved. I hope my colleagues in the House will join me in this bipartisan effort to conserve our oceans and wildlife.

I would also like to applaud the recreational fishing and conservation community for their leadership on this bill.

Large-scale drift gillnets—or driftnets, as they are called—are wasteful, and they are an outdated type of fishing gear. At 2 kilometers long, their purpose is to simply drift along whatever ocean currents and catch whatever they may find in their long webbing.

The only large-scale driftnet fishery in the country today is the West Coast swordfish fishery, where these driftnets are used to catch swordfish and other commercially valuable species such as thresher, mako shark, and opah.

But a 2-kilometer-long net in the ocean catches far more than these target species. Driftnets are indiscriminate. They catch sea turtles, bottlenose dolphins, and short-finned pilot whales.

During the committee hearing on this bill, my Republican colleague, GARRET GRAVES, joked that California is finally catching up with his State of Louisiana because they ended driftnet fishing in 1995, to which I say: Good for Louisiana. Elsewhere around the world,